the credit of the company, at the close of year, of not less than 500*l*. The original capital of 8,000*l*. is thereby augmented to 10,000*l*., being an increase of 5*l*. upon each original share of 20*l*.——The ancient bridge of Yarrow—supposed to have been erected by the Picts or Romans—has been destroyed; one of its arches having been swept away by a recent flood.

ACCESS TO THE WELLINGTON STATUE ON THE ARCH.

THE public are greatly indebted to you for many improvements in the arrangements of our public buildings and national monuments, which you ably point out.

As I daily look out of my window upon the statue of the captain of the age, it has often occurred to me that, from its great altitude, the beauty and symmetry of both horse and rider are completely lost; for it is only by the assistance of a telescope or magnifying glass that the execution in all its parts can be seen or appreciated. I would suggest a mode to overcome this, which, I am sure, would not only gratify the public, but the great influx of foreigners whom we may expect as visitors in 1851,—viz., to have a gallery surrounding the base of the statue, with balustrades, approached by an invisible staircase, which would not only be a great source of attraction, giving an excellent view of both parks, but would enable the spectators to examine this enormous piece of sculpture. The price of admission would soon remunerate the cost of the alteration, and might further enable the opposite arch to be surmounted by some appropriate statue, which would have a grand effect, so desirable in the neighbourhood of royalty.

When we consider the vast resources of this great country, we are at a loss to account for the dearth of taste in our public buildings and monuments, which leaves us so far behind our neighbours on the continent. Let us hope, however, that a bright day is beginning to dawn upon us, and that public taste, assisted by royalty and urged by your excellent publication, will still improve our metropolis, so as to make it the pride and admiration of the world. JOHN LAURIE.

Hyde-park-place.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER SKETCHES BY LANDSEER.

MR. GRUNDY, of Regent-street, has recently published some clever engravings after three sketches by Mr. Edwin Landseer, viz.: "Napoleon's Eagle," "The Huntsman and Hounds," and "Coming Events." The original of the first, we mentioned in our notice of Mr. Grundy's winter exhibition (still open), as being "full of poetry," and so it is; though in the engraving the greater distinctness given to the shadow of the dead emperor in the setting sun, puts the occurrence more out of the range of reason than in the drawing. The eagle, perched on a rugged rock, and gazing on the sinking luminary, is a fine impersonation of troubled sadness.

"The Huntsman and Hounds," from a free pen and ink sketch, singularly spirited and characteristic of the artist, is so exactly a transcript of the original, the sportsman's coat marked too by red hatching, that it is difficult to tell one from the other.

PANORAMIC TOUR TO THE BRITANNIA BRIDGE.

IN the building adjoining the Polytechnic Institution, Regent-street, a theatre has been constructed by Mr. Thomson, Architect, wherein is now being exhibited a series of paintings, illustrative of the principal places passed in a journey from London to the Menai Straits; namely Primrose Hill with the railway as a starting point, Wolverton Viaduct, Birmingham, Coventry, Chester, Conway Castle, and the Britannia Tube. The views are painted in distemper, by Mr. J. W. Allen, the well known landscape painter, and are for the most part very beautiful: we would particularly mention Chester, seen by moonlight.

We would suggest the addition of another picture to terminate the exhibition, namely, a *close view* of the bridge, which should give spectators a more startling notion of the size and construction of this engineering wonder of our day, than is conveyed by the general representation of it. The curtain which falls between each painting, shows a map of the country,—a clever introduction. Much of the effect of the pictures depends upon the excellence of the lighting, which has been wholly arranged by Mr. Leslie, and appears to be under admirable control.

The decorations before the curtain, including some very clever relievos, lighted from behind, are by Mr. E. T. Paris. The explanatory observations which accompany the pictures may be improved, and made to afford as much information as the views give pleasure.

Books.

Report of Transactions and Works executed by the Honourable the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London in 1849. By W. HAYWOOD, Surveyor to the Commission. Brewster and West, Dowgate.

A Plan for Removing and Deodorizing the Sewage of London, and applying it to the purposes of Irrigation. By HENRY STOTHERT. Printed for private circulation.

MR. HAYWOOD'S report goes fully into his subject, and shows that the sanitary improvement of the City is pursued with considerable energy. The reporter concludes by saying that the time is not remote when he shall be able to state that every street, court, and alley has been drained, and that sufficient sewerage exists to facilitate the speedy abolition of cesspools throughout the whole city. Mr. Moffat's establishment for the manufacture of the sewage into dry portable manure, we perceive, is in progress at Puddle-dock Sewer, in place of Paul's Wharf, and will shortly be in actual operation.

Mr. Stothert's "plan" is one of those presented to the Metropolitan Commission. It mainly consists of a forcing apparatus connected with cesspools and conducting the sewage through elevated iron pipes or arteries to a stirring apparatus, where it is mixed with deodorizing materials, and then distributed throughout the horticultural and agricultural districts at some distance from the metropolis. The author estimates the cost of removal at 748,080*l*.,—of mixing and distributing at 1,528,440*l*.,—and the annual cost at 198,155*l*.; while the profit would be 3,801,845*l*., at what he regards as a moderate calculation. (?)

Sanitary Progress: being the Fifth Report of the National Philanthropic Association for the Promotion of Social and Salutiferous Improvements, Street Cleanliness, and Poor Employment. Second Edition. Hatchard and Son, Piccadilly.

THIS is a detailed and terrible record of the state of things in the middle of the nineteenth century; but it records also all that is being done by way of antidote to the bane; and, amongst other philanthropic efforts, and good works, an account, of course, of "the street orderly system," organized by the Association itself. The report is much enlarged, and seems to comprehend numerous particulars, disinterestedly collated from all quarters, and on every branch of "Sanitary Progress." Some of the engravings of low lodging-houses in Church-lane and elsewhere, give a fearful, and we do believe a truthful idea of the state of wretchedness in which multitudes vegetate, in a sort of smouldering vitality that can scarcely be called *living*, throughout the metropolis.

Description of a Roman Building and other Remains lately discovered at Caerleon. By JOHN EDWARD LEE. London: J. R. Smith, 4, Old Compton-street.

MR. LEE, the writer of this little work, and also the etcher of the plates, is the chief founder of the Museum of Antiquities at Caerleon, where, though itself but a small town, more local antiquities are preserved than in any place in England, except at its other extremity in Newcastle. The present etchings are intended as an Appendix to the "Roman Antiquities of Caerleon," published some years since. Some of them have already appeared in the "Archæologia Cambriensis." The profits, if any, are to be devoted to the funds of the Museum of Antiquities at Caerleon.

Miscellanea.

GLASGOW ATHENÆUM.—On Wednesday in last week, a grand *soirée* of members and friends was held in the City Hall, Mr. Sheriff Alison in the chair, when about 1,200 ladies and gentlemen were entertained with a variety of good things, intellectual as well as physical, and the evening passed off with great *éclat*. Sparkling and refreshing flows of eloquence were poured into open and thirsty ears by the president—Sheriff Alison, and by Sheriff Bell, Professor Nichol, Dr. Cumming, the Lord Provost of the city, and others; and the members of the Philharmonic Association, connected with the Institute, besides a military band, and a choir of glee singers, still further enlivened and harmonized the social intercourse of friends and members. In course of his address Mr. Alison said he was strongly impressed with a sense of the importance of such an institution as this not only to the members, but to all within their influence. Experience, he remarked, teaches us that it is impossible for a highly educated class to communicate at once a taste for literature and art to the working classes by telling them to do this, or read that, or go to the theatre, or anything of the sort: it cannot be done. The desire, the taste, the habit must be communicated from the highest educated class to the less educated, by going through all the intermediate classes. It is thus, and thus only, the people can be elevated, and knowledge diffused, until it reach every fireside, every mechanic's shop, every cottage in the land. Sheriff Bell expatiated with his usual eloquence on the virtue of humility and diffidence amongst those benefited by such an institution, and on the necessity of a cultivation of the domestic and social affections to the attainment of happiness. Dr. Nichol maintained, in course of his remarks, that a narrow and exclusive absorption of the mind by business, or one line of business, is in the main fatal to higher success in business itself. Is it not plain, he urged, that the power to deal with emergencies must reside exclusively in the practised condition, the readiness of all the faculties for action? And how reach this unless through general culture, through the habit of dealing with considerations external to any daily and narrow routine? We have a most kindly remembrance of Glasgow and its Athenæum.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WOODS AND FORESTS.—Lord John Russell has moved the introduction of the bill for the better management of the Woods and Forests and the Public Works. The direction of the latter is to be in the hands of a special political officer, to be called the commissioner of works, who will have to consider and propose to the Government and the Commons as to whatever expenses may be called for or necessary to carry on public works, such expenses to be charged on the public revenues at large, and not taken out of the crown revenues as occasionally heretofore. The Commissioner of Works is to have the salary (2,000*l*.) now received by the First Commissioner of Woods and Forests. The latter department is to consist of three Commissioners of Land Revenue, two of them with salaries of 1,400*l*. and 1,000*l*. respectively, the third to be a member of Government, without special salary. Thus the question of ways and means for public works as yet remains in *statu quo*, unless, indeed, it be left to the Commissioner of Works to consider and propose on the subject to the Government and the Commons.

ARTISTS' CONVERSAZIONE.—The second evening meeting was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, the 23rd February, and was well attended: the committee for the evening were Mr. John Le Keux, Mr. Shepheard, and Mr. S. R. Solly. A number of drawings and other works of art were exhibited, including a folio of remarkably broad and beautiful sketches of country, by Mr. Bennett, a name which has but recently come before the artistical world.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—The submarine telegraph between Dover and Calais is already almost realized. The tower for the battery, offices, and general works, at Dover, is nearly erected, and the insulated wires are in a forward state of progress, to be sunk across the channel in course of the present month.

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